

thoroughly, what they said They wanted him in the House, as one of their M P 's When they pressed and pressed hard, the ingenious ad\ocate was caught When they continued to press, and Mrs Webb seconded their pressure, he gave way He allowed himself to be adopted by Seaham Haibour, a mining constituency m Durham County.

The Miners assured them that Seaham, in spite of the temporary aberration of 1918, which had returned a Coupon-Tory representative to Westminster, was a safe seat for their nominee Its history suggested that, adoption there was certainly a totally different proposition from adoption as Labour candidate for London University, it meant getting in But, having made their decision, with all that it meant, the Webbs left nothing to chance.

They addressed themselves to the organisation and capture of Seaham with their customary thoroughness At nine elections for the London County Council, he had proved that there was little he did not know about electioneering, and no trouble that he was not piepared to take in order to make the utmost use of what he regarded as an educational opportunity As such, therefore, somewhat to the amazement of the miners and their wives, he and Mrs Webb proceeded to treat the business of "nursing" Seaham

The constituency was organised, as it had never been organised before I remember going to dine at 41 Grosvenor Road very shortly after his adoption, and finding them

both, enthusiastically, "on the job " They had made up their minds, and were throwing themselves into the new task with gusto They certainly made it uncommonly interesting Already they had got the history of mining in general, and of mining in County Durham in particular, at their fingers⁵ ends Their next step was to map out the place, on the basis of the institutions and organisations, preferably the non-political ones—through which they were